



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

*Lewiston, ME*

## EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The job training grants provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to prepare them for employment in the assessment and cleanup of brownfield sites. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

## Community Description

The City of Lewiston was selected to receive a job training grant. Lewiston (population 35,390) is an urban service center surrounded by rural communities. The city will focus this grant on its federally designated Enterprise Community (EC). The EC is a residentially dense community with a 42% poverty rate and over 8% unemployment. Poverty and unemployment rates are three to four times higher than those of the city, county, or state. An influx of 1,000 immigrants from Somali has increased employment needs, but the city lost 400 jobs last year, mostly in the manufacturing sector. Two of the city's largest brownfields sites within the heart of downtown will be ready for cleanup



## Job Training Grant

**\$200,000**

EPA has selected the City of Lewiston for a job training grant. The city plans to train 75-85 students, achieve an 85% placement rate, and track students for one year. The program will be offered on both a slow track and fast track to make it available to as many participants as possible. The slow track will offer evening classes for participants who are employed or underemployed. The fast track will offer full-time instruction that can be completed in 42 days. The core 171-hour program will include hazardous waste health and safety, lead and asbestos abatement, and construction, followed by courses in either hazardous waste transport (78 hours) or brownfields redevelopment (82 hours). Students will be recruited from Androscoggin County, with a focus on Lewiston's Enterprise Community. The city will work with the Central/Western Maine Workforce Investment Board Career Center, abatement contractors, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to place graduates in environmental jobs.

## Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team  
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<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

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this year, and environmental contractors in the area report a need for trained environmental technicians. The employment outlook for sustainable brownfields-related jobs is very promising.